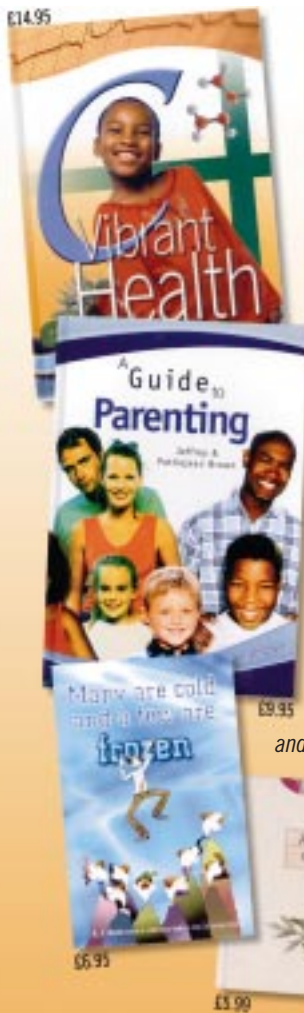


Messenger

Record year for new titles

Words: David Marshall/Pictures: David Bell



‘Sixty-four per cent of the 58 million UK population regard themselves as Christians (though only 12.5 per cent attend church regularly),’ said the BBC’s Diane Louise Jordan at the London Book Fair on Tuesday 18 March. ‘Sixty per cent (35 million) of the adult population read books – and that is aside from those who do so for scholarly purposes. And 60 per cent of the book-buying population purchases Christian books,’ she concluded.

At a special book launch service at The Stanborough Press on Thursday 20 March these statistics were recalled by BUC president Pastor Cecil Perry.

General manager Paul Hammond spoke of the record output of new titles in the twelve months March 2002 to March 2003. These had included a major new health book, *Vibrant Health*, edited by Dr Clemency Mitchell and a team of Adventist doctors, and *A Guide to Parenting*, written by Dr Jeffrey and Mrs Pattiejean Brown of Oakwood College. In addition there were two gift books, one of them *A Treasury of Prayer*. There was also a range of twelve paperback books which included A. J. Raitt’s *Many are Cold and a Few are Frozen*, Stephen Poxon’s *A Father’s Heart*, David Marshall’s *When the Only Way Out is Through*, Robert Parr’s book of short stories for Christians, *Sparrow Among the Eagles*, and Ray Markham’s *Greater Expectations*.

Pastor Don W. McFarlane, president of the South England Conference, gave the prayer and blessing on the new books, refocusing the minds of the publishing family on mission.

Order through your PM secretary or direct from the ABC, Tel. 01476 539900



Top: Press Executive members Dr David Marshall (senior editor), Pastor Vernon Nambo (ABC manager), Deborah Harris-Ugbomah, Pastor Des Rafferty, Pastor D. W. McFarlane, Paul Hammond (general manager), Graham Barham (financial director), Pastor Jon Gendel and Pastor C. R. Perry (chairman)

Above: Board member Deborah Harris-Ugbomah (second left) with staff members Lisa Bond, Kerry Whotton, Lee Gallaher (associate editor) and Abigail Murphy (designer)



Festival of Flowers 2003

by Audrey Balderstone

In June this year Adventist churches throughout the British Union Conference will have the opportunity of participating in a Festival of Flowers to be held in Stanborough Park church, 26-29 June. Through floral displays, ADRA’s compassionate ministry will be highlighted. Proceeds of the Festival will go to ADRA-UK to support a water and sanitation project for the Korce orphanage in Albania. In addition, our aim is to make a personal difference to the orphans of Albania by participating with ADRA-UK in collecting 2,000 shoeboxes filled with items chosen and packed with loving care.

Dr Charles Sandefur, president of ADRA International at the General Conference, will open the Festival at a special preview evening on 26 June and the church will be open to the public that weekend, on Friday, Sabbath and Sunday. Dr Sandefur will also be the speaker during divine service at the church on 28 June and the afternoon speaker at Camp Hill church at 5pm the same day.

ADRA’s motto is *Changing the World, One Life at a Time – and One*

Life at a Time has been chosen as the title of the Festival. Will you be willing to change the life of at least one child – if not more – this year, by demonstrating, in a tangible way, that Jesus loves them? Please support the orphans of Albania and contact your Personal Ministries leader for more information on how to pack your shoebox gifts, and venues where the shoeboxes can be collected.



On the War

The British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists regrets the outbreak of war or its necessity, representing as it does the irreconcilable breakdown of human relationships. We would hope for a short prosecution of the conflict in Iraq and little, if any, loss of life and destruction of property.

It is our hope that the civilians caught in the crossfire will be mercifully spared the tragic implications of the war.

History will have to judge the morality/legitimacy of the conflict.

The Christian's approach to war should be in keeping with the teachings of Christ. He speaks of the inevitability of the causes of conflict (Luke 17:1-6). Summarising the signs of the end of the age Jesus told his disciples, "You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom." (Matt. 24:6, 7, NIV)

This does not represent a resignation to pervasive evil or the promotion of a pacifist charter. Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr. and others who shared the philosophy of non-violence, believed that the positive impact of good, equality and justice could neutralise or lessen the unjust actions of evil men.

To Karl Marx, the father of dialectical socialism, the Christian doctrine was passive. He said that Christianity was the 'opiate of the people'. It made them docile. 'Turning the other cheek' when struck was, to him, a sign of weakness.

Upon closer scrutiny of the life of Jesus we observe that his teaching raised the human spirit to a level that transcends the dynamics of a confrontational approach. To resist the evil and engage the good calls for more inner strength and divine fortitude.

Retaliation or retribution, he says, is not an activity benefiting the children of his kingdom. The use of the sword or force is alien to the concept of love. The militaristic language of the Old Testament would seem to some to suggest a radical and decisive confrontation with one's opponents.

In the theocracy of Israel God made himself responsible for the security of his people, but somewhere along the line they opted for their own defence in the way they related to Jehovah, disobeying his voice and going after other gods.

The Lord said, 'I will fight for you.' 'The battle is the Lord's.' God seems to say, 'Learn lessons from my deliverance of you from Egypt without a shot

being fired. Remember how Jericho fell and Gideon with 300 routed the Midianite army. . . .'

Biblical history does not endorse wars but as in the case of divorce, they come about because of the hardness of men's hearts. The commandments have been summarised in two parts: 'Love towards God' and 'Love towards man'. If mankind understood who God is and what constitutes real love, wars would be obsolete.

However, war is inevitable because of the activity of Satan in our world and our own sinful nature.

The Second Coming of Jesus to rescue his people during the throes of Armageddon, known as 'the Battle of God Almighty', will signal the end of conflict. John described the picture at Jesus' third coming in the graphic words, 'I [John] saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven' – the prize Satan coveted. Satan summons those raised in the second resurrection to seize it but that is the last grandstand, the final battle. Satan and his angels, the unrepentant resurrected sinners and death are finally conquered never to rise again. (See Revelation 20, 21 and 22.)

Wars and transgressions will be no more.



* This is a guest editorial from the president of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

The Christian's role

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has adopted a near pacifist approach towards wars and encouraged its members serving in the forces to be non-combatants.

As conscientious objectors the common practice or acceptable policy has been that we should serve in such areas as chaplaincy, medical or paramedical roles or perform other non-military tasks. In both World Wars of the twentieth century Adventists were non-interventionists; non-intervention was their approach to both national and international politics. In the event of war, that ensured that the Church concerned itself with alleviating the effects on others. In the major wars many of our members did their humanitarian duties in

keeping with the dictates of conscience and church policy.

We regret as a church the inevitability of wars because of the hostile nature of sin. In his enumeration of the signs of the end of the age Jesus said "You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen." (Matt. 24:6, 7).

Human-activated wars are unnecessary because of the tragic consequences to life and property. As a church we advocate the making of peace and the keeping of peace.

True and lasting peace will not come by the use of force but by the change Jesus, the Prince of peace, brings to human hearts. 'Put up your sword,' Jesus said to Peter in Gethsemane. 'He who lives by the sword will die by the sword.'

The pacifist approach of Jesus to war does not mean sterile silence against its evil. We owe it to God, humanity and our conscience to help create an environment of peace and to help relieve the sufferings from the results of wars.

In the time of conflict or impending conflict we must heed again the call to prayer and supplication on the part of God's people and the nations. Ask God to hold back the winds of strife until the Gospel Commission is fulfilled.

The war in Iraq fills us with sadness, not only because we have a thriving church in Baghdad but because of the untold sufferings that will result from the war.

Let us hope that a modern Daniel can come to Iraq, like the Daniel of old who stood in the courts of ancient Babylon to exalt the name of Jehovah.

All are God's children by creation and redemption whatever the creed, ethnicity, nationality or soul condition. Therefore let us ask God to intervene again in his world to establish his everlasting kingdom where wars, sickness, death and sin will never enter.

C. R. PERRY

Editor: Those wishing to share their views and perceptions should do so in brief, carefully argued letters to the addresses (postal or email) given in the colophon on page 8 of MESSENGER.



Adventists and War



It's been interesting hearing from everyone about the war. Broadly speaking, correspondence falls into two camps:

- Those, influenced by the traditional Christian approach to war, who make a powerful case for peace.
- Those, perhaps influenced by the more bellicose media and their political loyalties (most Adventists vote, and therefore have such loyalties), who back the government line – more or less.

Early Adventist thought accepted the inevitability of war. After all, the end-time schema includes a 'time of trouble such as never was'. The commandments have been important to Adventists and one of them states, 'Thou shalt not kill' (and, unlike modern commentators, we have *not* tended to define 'kill' as 'murder' – but just, well, *kill!*). We have also been influenced by the Gospel and the teachings of Jesus with regard to forgiveness and to turning the other cheek. In addition, in the main, we have historically prioritised the Great Commission over sectional or national interests and viewed wars as interruptions to the onward progress of God's Work.

In World War I Seventh-day Adventists sought out non-combatant roles and, when attempts were made to make them do unnecessary work on Sabbaths, they went to some of the less salubrious prisons in consequence, among them Wormwood Scrubs and Dartmoor. Such was the jingoism and Colonel Blimp attitudes of those days that Adventists, both in the military and in prison, suffered persecution for their principles. Pastor W. W. Armstrong, who was to become a Union president in the 1950s, is said to have been strapped to the barrel of a cannon while it was being fired. . . . That persecution was the subject of a Home Office inquiry when the war was over.

By 1939, when World War II broke out, the British Church had moved into a pacifist position. Ironically, as it turned out, as from the perspective of the relatively clear-cut issues of the Second World War, the First was apt to look like 'a clash of imperialisms'. In World War II a small minority of Adventists became combatants, whereas most Adventist men faced tribunals in which they courageously explained their antiwar principles and were (in most instances) drafted into 'essential work'. My

father was sent to work on the railways; my old friend Hugh Dunton became the most unlikely of coal miners. Typically, Adventists also involved themselves, on a voluntary basis, in either the Auxiliary Fire Service or the St John Ambulance Brigade – sometimes both – and helped to cope with the casualties of war on the home front.

The morally clear-cut issues led, as the war developed, to Adventist support (their loyalty was never in doubt) of the 'war effort'. In most homes, however, that did not imply uncritical support of the political leaders, let alone of the war strategy.

Altered perspectives followed the outbreak of peace in 1945. The menace of the mushroom cloud accounted for some of these. War might have been justifiable when Belgium or Poland (or the Falklands or Kuwait?) were being invaded, but the prospect of war was complicated by the Cold War equation: War=Annihilation. When the British and the French sent troops to attack Colonel Nasser in 1956 (the Suez crisis), opinion favoured the joint American-Russian view in condemning them. After Suez, successive British governments steered clear of military involvement; when the Americans chose to fight Communism in Vietnam, the British chose to give diplomatic support only – and that from a safe distance.

Arguably, the way of the present military venture was prepared by success in the Falklands, the first Gulf War and the various UN/NATO involvements in the Balkans. Little has happened to prepare the British people, let alone the majority of our Adventist people, for exposed involvement with the Americans in 'The War Against Saddam' (which most see as sharply distinct from the War Against Terrorism).

There is little understanding among our people for the Southern States fundamentalism that appears to drive the war impetus of George W. Bush, Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld.

In both Britain and the Republic of Ireland some Adventists have involved themselves in demonstrations for peace. While acknowledging that neither oppression nor war are part of God's plan, those readers who have written to me believe that the world post-Saddam might be more scary than the world that included Saddam. Echoing the House of Commons debate, it has been argued that every missile fired at or bomb dropped on Iraq might be 'a recruiting sergeant for Al Qaeda'. That, I

suppose, could be viewed as part of the pragmatic case against the Iraq war: It will make the War Against Terrorism harder to fight.

Some of you, however, are also concerned with the *theological* case against war: the Kingdom of Grace as a 'no fight zone' (remember that on the next church board!), the Jesus model of conflict resolution, Christians as peacemakers, and Jesus as the Prince of Peace – who will soon return to establish the Kingdom of Glory (and Eternal Peace). On the opposite page Pastor Perry discusses these matters; and anything he has omitted he will take up in a fortnight's time (together with whether or not there is such a thing as a 'just war').

To those whose political loyalties (to Mr Blair or Mr Duncan Smith, both of whom support war) prompt unqualified support for coalition forces, perhaps I should recommend further reflection. The Jesus Way is not, arguably, something we can locate in one corner of our lives; it has got to be the whole. It is never wise to give unqualified support to any leader, political or ecclesiastical. Vote, by all means; but *total support*. . . ? The Adventists who gave support to certain twentieth-century regimes had to do a lot of back-peddalling when those regimes were overthrown;¹ if only they had allowed the Christian Way to colour the *whole* (as opposed to a corner) of their lives all along. . . . The Adventists who emerged from those regimes with an enhanced reputation were those who had stuck to their religious principles.²

If our end-time schema teaches us anything it is that there will come a time when we will have to choose between God's way and the way authorised by our political masters. If you have upset feelings because our politicians are, for whatever reason, pursuing courses of action hostile to the views you hold – you may have to get used to them.

¹ Z. Plantak, *The Silent Church: Human Rights and Adventist Social Ethics* (MacMillan, 1998), pages 17 et seq. ² Susie Hasel-Mundy, *A Thousand Shall Fall* (Review and Herald, 2001); Marite Sapiets, *True Witness: the Story of Seventh-day Adventists in the Soviet Union* (Keston College, 1990); Sabina Wurmbbrand, *The Pastor's Wife* (Highland Books, 1986).



‘Youth Matters’ Convention

Denmark, 6-9 March

by Andrea Dawes

? Have you ever felt that whatever you were doing wasn't good enough?

? Have you ever felt as though you could do so much more if you only had a bigger budget?

? Have you ever felt that no one understands?

? Have you ever longed for support but instead found yourself knocking your head against the brick wall of administration?

If you have experienced any of these feelings you are probably a youth leader/worker.

Pastor Paul Tompkins, Youth director of the Trans-European Division (TED), and his team saw the need to motivate and encourage youth workers across the Division and provide them with a forum in which to meet and exchange ideas and resources. This vision was not left dormant but was realised through the ‘Youth Matters’ weekend.

The aims and objectives set out by the TED were to ‘bring together Scandinavian countries, the UK, Iceland and Finland for training, resources and development to enable and equip us to push aside the barriers and go further in ministering effectively in this postmodern, post-Christian Europe’.

Says Pastor Tompkins, ‘You see, the problem of secularisation in Western Europe is the same for all. There are unique differences in each country but the main problems and challenges are exactly the same: sharing the Gospel with a world that knows little about Jesus.’

Our main speaker, Gilbert Cangy, Youth director for the South Pacific Division, motivated the delegation by reminding us during our devotional sessions that God uses the most unlikely candidates to work miracles. If he can make a leader out of a stammerer (Moses), if he can build a nation through an old man (Abraham), and if he can slay a giant through a small boy with five stones (David), then how much more can he do with the youth?

Gilbert also took the opportunity to outline some of the ministries in

Australia that are proving successful. The Underground Movement was of particular interest to all who attended the weekend. The Underground is committed to moving youth forwards from knowledge of God to an experience with God in the context of small groups. The groups are set up to:

Build up one another so as to create unity

Seek God together through worship and prayer

Gain a better knowledge of God through Bible studies

Encourage youth to get involved in/set up community-based activities

Challenge young people to share their faith with three friends and, by doing so, watch God’s kingdom grow.

The feedback from the delegates has been extremely positive; youth leaders are returning to their home churches encouraged and with higher morale, inspiration, and renewed strength to continue their work:

Not only was there a camaraderie found through a shared vision and desire to work for the Lord, but we spending time together in discussing problems.

Not only were friendships built, but resources were exchanged, email addresses and telephone numbers shared.

Not only did we laugh together – but our little community was united in grief.

The death of three ADRA workers known by some of the delegates there was felt by all and, as a result, brought us closer and effected a more meaningful perspective to our lives and the service we give to God. Pastor Eglan Brooks, Pathfinder and Teens director for South England Conference, reminded us that this is what life is all about; ‘If you are not willing to stand for something, you will fall for anything. . . . If you are not prepared to die for what you believe in then what is the point?’

All those who attended ‘Youth Matters’ left in agreement with Pastor Tompkins, who said, ‘There is no single methodology where it comes to reaching young people. Whatever the Lord inspires you to do, you should do it!’

Manchester South: ten baptised

On Sabbath 28 December, Manchester South witnessed the baptism of ten precious souls, and they all had interesting personal experiences to tell of their journeys to the baptismal pool.

The church was filled to capacity, and the congregation listened as the candidates responded to the baptismal vows read out by Pastor Richard Brooks. Special items for the candidates were given by two local groups. Just Men sang ‘Christ is all’, and three young sisters, Joyful Inspiration, sang ‘Love will reign again’.

In his message to the candidates, Pastor F. Mapp highlighted the four main factors needed to sustain any relationship, whether human or spiritual. These were: *Love* – the most rugged; *Trust* – the most fragile; *Understanding* – the longest to develop; and *Honour and Respect* – the ones taken most for granted.

The first people to enter the pool were Corey Thomas and his wife Loreen. Corey had responded to an appeal made at Manchester South some months ago. Then nothing was seen of him for a while. Loreen, who was baptised in another congregation, had also stopped attending for some time. They recently returned, requesting baptism, and were given a series of studies. Before they were immersed, a group, which specially travelled from Leeds to support Corey and Loreen, sang ‘You don’t have to worry’.

An engaged couple, Jacqueline Amankwaah and Winston Brown, were next in the pool. Both had decided to seal their relationship with Christ before they marry next year. Entering the pool together they smiled radiantly in anticipation of their immersion.

The story of Debra Mkwamba was very touching and put smiles on the faces of the congregation. Debra Left Malawi to come to England and somehow found herself attending Manchester South each Sabbath. As the months passed she decided to be baptised as a testimony of her new relationship with God. She wrote to her fiancé Benjamin Chika in Malawi telling him of her decision. He had previously contemplated becoming an Adventist and wanted to be baptised with Debra. Benjamin flew from Malawi so that he and Debra could be baptised together. The couple are due to marry next year.

Tetyana Goryacha from the Ukraine

is someone the members of Manchester South have grown to enjoy seeing. Affectionately known as Tety, she has been attending the church for some time with her husband. Tetyana smiled broadly as she was immersed with her husband looking on.

Kevin James Davies embraced the Advent message from the time he heard it. He decided to become an Adventist and wanted to be baptised at Manchester South as it is the place where he feels most at home. His Adventist finacée, Gabriela Dăscălița, helped Kevin in his conviction. Both Kevin’s parents and his grandmother attended the service and watched him take his stand for Christ.

As a few of the Manchester South congregation come from Botswana, Dineo Malefho will feel at home here. She decided to become a disciple of Christ following her encounter with him.

Lastly we saw Veron Thompson immersed. Originally from Jamaica, Veron decided to become an Adventist, and will join the Manchester South sister church Longsight.

Before their immersions all the candidates had their favourite passages of scripture read either by a friend or by the Manchester South head elder, Paul Elleston. The congregation then sang their favourite hymns.

While waiting for the return of the candidates, Pastor Mapp made an appeal for those who were willing to accept Christ as their Saviour to indicate appropriately. Some responded and a prayer was given. Following an introduction of the new members to the church, the service ended with a rousing rendition of ‘When we all get to Heaven’.

JANICE SAVIZON

Manchester’s big Investiture

During the ministry of Pastor Victor Harewood at Manchester South (1996-1999), Sister Candice Harewood got together with a couple of others to set up a Pathfinder club. They met fortnightly and, though in the beginning their number was small, with much toil and devotion from the leaders, the club has grown to include Pathfinders, Adventurers and Eager Beavers.

The Eager Beavers, which caters for ages 3-5, was formed only a year ago. This club now numbers approxi-

mately twenty-eight youngsters. The total number of those who attend all three clubs regularly is about fifty. These children are from the neighbouring Manchester churches, and some who do not have an Adventist background.

One of the early helpers in the formation of the clubs was Amanda Questel-Lewis. She worked hard to keep the Pathfinder club going and was the successor to Sister Harewood when she left Manchester. Just over a year ago Amanda was appointed to the role of Area Co-ordinator for the North West. This has meant that she is not always available to work with the Manchester Pathfinders as her responsibilities and duties are now greater. Nevertheless, those who have succeeded her have also done exceptionally well.

On Investiture and Award days at Manchester South the sanctuary is usually filled to capacity with Pathfinders, parents, guardians, friends and members. Sabbath 23 November was no exception. Everyone had gathered to see three teachers invested as Master Guides. They were Kathleen Lopuszansky, the current leader, Lorna Sangster and Jennifer Mercer.

At the head of the service the three clubs marched into the sanctuary with their respective flags. Mike Rossiter conducted the Investiture and informed the congregation that the new Master Guides had completed all the necessary requirements for their accreditations. Ken Burt from the West Midlands delivered the message for the morning.

As well as the



Left to right: Sisters Margaret Johns, Mary Richardson, Dell Coke, Irene Ongaro and Matilda Kirwan

Kathleen Lopuszansky being invested by Mike Rossiter (In the background on the platform is Ken Burt)



investiture of the Master Guides, some children from each club were given awards for badges they had completed since the last Investiture. Among those who did exceptionally well were two Eager Beavers, Shantonia Lewis and Safiya McKenzie who each received nine chips. All the Helping Hands have moved up from the Adventurers to become Pathfinders.

JANICE SAVIZON

Teaching resources for children

How can we help the ‘Tiny Tots Nursery’ in St Lucia? That was the question in the minds of the newly-formed Outreach Project Group of elders’ wives from the Preston, Blackpool and Lancaster churches. Together the group donated teaching resource material to the nursery. As the ladies are all mothers themselves, they were very happy to know that children would benefit from their efforts.

In a plan to improve their own spiritual growth, the ladies have decided to become prayer partners and wish to do great things for the Lord. Special thanks are given to Sister A. Burrel from the Lancaster church for her contribution to the project.

JENNY JEFFERS

110 years of marriage

One hundred and ten years of marriage were celebrated in Bodmin church recently. In December Len and Anne Taylor celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. A surprise party was organised by their three daughters, Elizabeth, Joyce and Ruth. Many family members and church members of Bodmin and St Austell came to help them celebrate. And on 1 March Pastor Maurice and Mrs Tina Cuthbert celebrated sixty years of marriage. We enjoyed a great meal together which was attended by their family and the members of the Bodmin church. We would like to congratulate them both and pray that the Lord will bless them with many more anniversaries.

PASTOR RON CLEMON

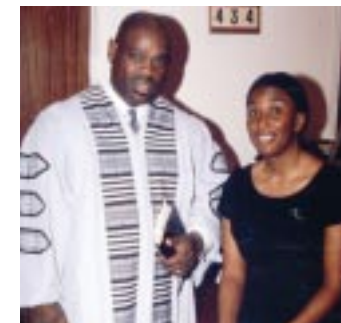


Home from home

Juel Punter is a BEd student at Nottingham University who comes from the Jennings church in Antigua. She is one of the many students who, from year to year, are faced with loneliness and other obstacles as they adjust to life in Britain. She said, ‘It has now been four months since my arrival here in Nottingham. These have been the most difficult months I have ever experienced in terms of loneliness. By the third day after my arrival I wanted to go home. It was my husband’s encouraging words that convinced me to stay.’

‘My first problem, which I am still trying to overcome, is the weather. . . . Meeting so many people was very interesting especially at the University,’ she continued. ‘I knew that living here for a year, I would need to find a church. I got hold of a map which only introduced church as a footnote and at the bottom of the map Seventh-day Adventist was quite big. So one Sabbath in September last year I set out to find the church. My first Sabbath was not so comforting, but by the third Sabbath I began to feel the warmth and comfort of my Adventist brethren. I began to look forward to Sabbaths, not only as a break from my studies, but especially to see the faces of the friends I have now acquired,’ she explained.

Story & Photo by MARVIN PATTERSON



Juel with Dr Patrick Herbert

Making friends

Christmas is a wonderful opportunity to make friends. For the third year in succession, we held our annual Carol Concert in our church in South Cumbria. Our congregation numbered eighty people from the locality. The way we attract so many people is by involving the community in the concert. This year we invited the local Roman Catholic primary school to perform a musical Nativity play. For, of course, when we invite a school to take part, we are sure that their parents and grandparents will come along too.

We also invited the local Town Brass Band; they too, of course, brought their supporters. In addition the elder of the United Reformed Church was happy to come and read the Scriptures for us.

Each year we have taken an offering in aid of a nearby Hospice. This year we invited their financial director, Mrs Carol Campbell, to come and tell us about the work of the Hospice. The collection amounted to £150.

In the spring we are arranging a ‘Festival of Praise’. This will include the choir of St James C of E church in Barrow, together with the local town band.

BILL KITCHEN

New technology for Adventist Discovery Centre

by Mike Stickland, director

March 2003 turned out to be a month we will celebrate and remember for a long time at the Adventist Discovery Centre. After many months of planning and praying, we are delighted to report that we have now purchased a colour laser printer capable of printing to A3 paper size. We have been striving towards printing more of our courses in-house because there are so many advantages by doing things that way.

About eighteen months ago, two young adult 'Friends of the VOP' sent a large donation that enabled us to begin a new adventure — we purchased a Panasonic A4 colour laser printer. We have learned many lessons by using it. When we compare the quality of lessons printed on it with the quality of photocopied lessons from

the past, or when we consider the cost and convenience of printing lessons on it compared with having them printed outside, we wonder how we ever managed without it! Yet we also learned that we might gain even greater advantage by purchasing an A3 machine as well.

Two senior 'Friends of the VOP' read of our desire to purchase such a machine in our Christmas/New Year IN TOUCH newsletter. They prayed about it and talked it over together, and then decided that since they have not been well enough to take holidays in recent years, the money they have saved could be used to pay for a new OKI A3 colour printer. When we read their letter and saw their cheque, we felt like the lame man mentioned in Acts 3,



Healthwise

The Road to Ethics

Clearly, there is a credibility gap. People everywhere doubt the words of their politicians, and question some of the technological achievements from the fairly recent past. A number of scientific journals have featured items in which reasons are cited for not believing that man has ever set foot on the moon!

On the other hand, it seems that a large proportion of the public are gullible to the extreme. As an experiment, a man created a web page describing the encapsulation of homeopathic quantities of substances in crystals as they formed in caves over many years. He then contacted a sceptical organisation and, using an alias, asked them if such a thing could happen. They replied, giving him scientific reason as to how and why these crystals were generated. He contacted them again using his real name and admitted the hoax. They wouldn't believe him and defended their previous statements.

So, some people don't want to believe, others do. Sometimes the public are duped whether they like it or not. A consumer group in the US is committed to exposing such frauds, and they even have the drug companies in their sights. In 2000 the US Food and Drug Administration approved a drug to treat irritable bowel syndrome. The clinical trial, published in the *Lancet*, showed that more people taking the drug felt better than those who took placebos. Unfortunately, data shown in the article omitted to show that both of these items worked about the same in the first month. The Consumer group replotted the data which showed no change in the patients using either the drug or the placebo. In the meantime the drug has grossed millions for the company concerned.

Another drug widely used as a 'safe' alternative for non-steroidal anti-inflammatories already has sales of over \$3 billion in a single year. What was not published by the company was data on the subsequent six

New LIFE development worker starts at BUC



On Wednesday 5 March Sally Salmond, who is currently employed by the Australian Media Centre, began working at the BUC office as the producer for the 'Evidence' satellite and video series. Sally will be working on secondment from the South Pacific Division for a period of eighteen months, during which time she will be gathering material for the Dwight Nelson programmes scheduled to be broadcast in the spring of 2004.

Sally graduated with a BA in Communication Studies, specialising in Media, in 1994 from the University of South Australia, and began working for AMC as a production assistant in 1997. 'This work involved everything from make-up to autotue management, to assisting in pre-production work for the media team. One of the big projects we worked on was "The Search" with Geoff Youlden. I learnt a lot on this project and it gave me a good foundation for my later work as a producer, which I have now enjoyed for the last four years. I love my work and am excited about working on the LIFEdevelopment project.'

Dwight Nelson's 'Evidence' series is a key component of the LIFEdevelopment evangelistic strategy. Although it is equivalent in some ways to the NET '98 series of satellite programmes, 'Evidence' will be targetted more towards those who have little or no knowledge of the Bible. It is expected that the programmes, which will be broadcast from Newbold College, will be taken up by many other countries around the world.

JOHN SURRIDGE

who, when healed, 'went walking and jumping and praising God!' We felt like leaping with praise and pleasure, and we thanked God for the faithfulness of his people.

On 11 March the ADC Board members held a special prayer of dedication for these two print machines and the A3 folding machine we have also purchased. We are delighted that

all three are working so well, and already there have been days when the machines work from morning to evening. The lessons we are now printing are products that rightly represent the quality of the message we teach, and we believe they will prove this in coming years as our work moves forward into the twenty-first century.



Obituaries

CHALCRAFT Kenneth — d. 26 November 2002. The members of the Ipswich church were shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Ken, who unexpectedly died from a heart attack while working in a garden, a place close to his heart. Ken was born on 28 January 1935 to Edward and Dorothy Chalcraft in Upper Beeding, Sussex. He came to Ipswich with his older sister Jean, when he was seven. It was their mother's home town. A warm friendship blossomed at school from May 1947 with Thelma, the love of his life. Following National Service, spent mostly in Egypt as a staff car driver during the Suez Canal crisis in 1953-55, Ken married Thelma in September 1956. He worked with a furniture removal firm until his heart attack in 1970. Mercifully, God spared him and he and his wife had another thirty-two years together. From this union came the blessing of daughter Carolyn and son David. In 1991 when Pastor Sven Ohman made an appeal to follow Jesus at a baptismal service, Ken remarked, 'It's now or never.' He was lowered into the water — in his jeans. He was faithful and helpful in his duties as a deacon. Some of the tributes tell of how he was an honest, dependable, kind, conscientious friend to all. During the funeral service his son, Professor David Chalcraft, stated movingly that his father was a rich man — rich in love to his children and grandchild-

dren; rich in knowledge which had been imparted to them and rich in moral stature that had influenced the whole family. Church elder Bill Man presented a brief but memorable eulogy. The writer, in his comforting message, reminded those present that a better day is coming, a time of resurrection. 'In heaven we shall be looking for Ken and he will be looking for us.' He sleeps in St John's churchyard, Great Wenham, close to where he lived. He is survived by his wife Thelma, two children, Carolyn and David, and five grandchildren, Daniel, Clinton, Ashley, Holly and Jetta, and by his sister Jean and her husband Maurice.

PASTOR PAUL SMITH

DABSON, Elizabeth Taylor (nee Baird) — d. 28 February. Elizabeth Dabson was born on 25 October 1919 in Scotland. On 3 September 1946 she married David Dabson, and is survived by her husband, her twin sons Raymond and Michael (both of Cooranbong) and her six grandchildren. Elizabeth was a theology graduate of Newbold College and a lifelong student of the Word of God and a devout follower of her Lord. She supported her husband tirelessly throughout his ministry in Scotland and later (1958) in Australia. Elizabeth was a compassionate woman who was loved by all who knew her.

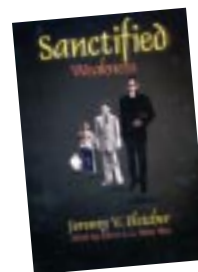
NORMAN YOUNG

HERTOGS, Dr Drusilla — d. 2 March. Drusilla was born on 19 May 1925 in Salisbury, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). When she was a small child her parents became Adventists after reading the book *The Great Controversy* sold to them by the young Ernest Marter, who was then a canvasser. From a young age Drusilla had been attracted to Medicine and, after matriculating, she took a year off to study the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy before attending Cape Town Medical School. It was at a YP meeting that she met Errol who was studying business. This meeting led to a friendship and marriage that would last for over fifty-two years. They were married on 1 February 1951 and soon after left for Mauritius, where Drusilla was the only woman doctor in the Government Health Service. In December 1965 they left for Kendu Mission Hospital in Kenya where Drusilla was one of three doctors and Errol was the business manager. In 1971 Errol was asked to work in the treasury department of what was then the Northern European West African Division in St Albans. Drusilla did further study and specialised in paediatrics, working for the NHS until her retirement in her mid-sixties. While worshipping at Stanborough Park church, Drusilla was instrumental in starting a prayer group which later developed into the Hemel Hempstead church. In St Albans she

helped establish and fund the Better Living Centre. After a number of years in St Albans they moved to Cambridgeshire and then to Berkshire. Drusilla, wherever she was, never stopped caring for the needs of others. At Newbold she noticed that the wives of the Eastern European students were separated from college life by their limited English so she initiated the NELLE (Newbold English Lessons for Ladies of Eastern Europe) programme. For four years now a number of student spouses have been able to attend Newbold's English Language School, changing their lives. The funeral service was conducted in Newbold church on Friday 7 March by Pastor Patrick Boyle assisted by Lani Edwards, in the presence of family and many church members and friends. There a Newbold staff member paid tribute to the impact Drusilla made on the Newbold community. We thank God for Drusilla's faithfulness throughout her life, her contributions to the churches she has attended and her devotion to helping others. While she sleeps in Jesus we, with her husband Errol and children, Keith, Gilian, Marion and Bruce, await that blessed day when the call of the resurrection will reunite us all with our Saviour. Come quickly, Lord Jesus.

MARGARET WASTLING

Book Review



Jeremy Fletcher's book *Sanctified Weakness* is the title of a book that was published just before Christmas. The author did not set out to write a

book. He was a dynamic young manuscript preacher, who captivated his audiences with life's sketches, linked to Scripture, in delivering meaningful but readily understood personal messages from the Bible. As one reviewer of the book puts it,

'Jeremy was able to bring the Bible to life in a manner that only he could.'

Jeremy Fletcher died in July 2000, without knowing that his sermons would continue to impact the lives of all who read *Sanctified Weakness*. Comments like: 'inspirational', 'a brilliant book', 'very encouraging', 'easy to understand', 'spiritually challenging', 'enjoyable', etc, are being freely offered by readers of every age group and from as far afield as Canada.

Victor and Maizie Fletcher, Jeremy's parents, have contracted with the publisher to donate the

profits from the sale of *Sanctified Weakness* to charity. In April the first cheque will be handed over to The Sickle Cell Society, in Willesden, London.

Copies of the book may be obtained from either The Stanborough Press and its ABC outlets, or from Mandra Publishing, PO Box 5136, Riseley, RG7 1GT.

Note: In an attempt to make *Sanctified Weakness* more accessible to young people, the publisher will pay postage for orders it delivers (10 or more copies) to any one address in Britain. Cost £5.95 each.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Maizie Fletcher

Prayer Feature

If my people pray

I have been feeling very blessed and privileged as readers of MESSENGER write to me sharing their thoughts, feelings and fears. I have not been able to go to church since I arrived here in Wales in July 2001, as our closest church is inaccessible to wheelchair users of which I am one due to paralysis of my legs from spina bifida. The church is built on a very steep bank and it has been difficult for the members to come up with a solution in deciding how best to rectify the situation.

During the time I have been unable to attend, I have longed for fellowship and was very grateful when I began to meet some of the church members who made special journeys to visit me at home. After reading *If My People Pray* by Randy Maxwell, I realised that God knew my need for a wider purpose in my life, as bringing up a 2-year-old while in a wheelchair has resulted in my feeling very stuck gen-

erally, especially as I was so used to making a difference in my previous work as a teacher, and I had been struggling to find enough clients in my new chosen profession of counselling to make a living. I feel that through praying for our members, God has given me the opportunity to redeem my isolation and my disempowerment in order to give me back a purpose that would bring me joy in doing his will.

People who have written to me over this last fortnight have not often specified whether they want their requests put into print and so to be on the safe side I have put here only the few who were very clear that they wanted their requests made public. However, I am receiving between two and three letters a day asking for my private prayers, from people who are feeling forsaken, although they know intellectually that God is there for them, just as I did, and just as our Lord Jesus Christ did while hanging on the cross. But however stuck, lonely or isolated you feel today as you read these words, God has a purpose for you. In your suffering and in your pain, he is waiting for you to hand it all to him in prayer. 'For our light and momentary troubles are

achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.' (2 Corinthians 4:17, NIV.)

Please pray for the following, and if you would like to join me as I go through my ever-growing list, make it between 8pm and 9pm, or if a morning time suits you better, other members of the Carmarthen and Swansea churches are praying through the list between 6am and 7am.

* **Pray** for Jonathan Owlabi from London, that he and his wife will be blessed with the skills necessary to be good parents and also ask that his children will do well in their studies. We need also to pray for Jonathan's cousin who is seriously ill and that Susan, a person known to Jonathan will be healed, as she is blind. He also asks that we pray that there will be a growth in numbers of Adventist hospitals where health professionals among our membership, seeking asylum, might find work, and patients will find the Lord.

* **The Hove church** are looking for new premises and ask that God be with them in their search as prices for property are so high in their area and this is a major concern to the members there.

Please send prayer requests to: Tracy E. Dixon, 83 Penygroes Road, Caerbryn, Ammanford, Carm., South Wales, SA18 3BZ.

International News

Russia: Adventist church destroyed in suspected arson attack. Police and fire officials are investigating a fire that destroyed an Adventist church in the city of Saransk, east of Moscow.

A night watchman noticed the flames at 1am on 4 February. After an initial inspection of the site, authorities concluded that arson was the most likely cause.

The Saransk church was slightly damaged in another suspected arson attack in December, when bottles containing flammable chemicals were thrown through several windows.

Adventist leaders in the region say they are concerned about the increasing violence directed against members of minority religions. In November the son of an Adventist pastor was attacked by knife in the city of Nizhnekamsk, and in December a night guard was killed at an Adventist church in Cheboksary.

ANN

Church leaders mourn ADRA workers.

The deaths of three workers for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA) were confirmed on 11 March. Emmanuel Sharpulo, acting country director for Liberia; Kaare Lund, director for Norway; and Musa Kita, chief driver, were killed in an outbreak of rebel fighting on their way to the Norwegian-funded ADRA refugee shelter project in the area of Toe Town, in eastern Liberia.

Resurgent fighting along the border between Liberia and the Ivory Coast has caused 2,500 Ivorian and other West African refugees to flee and displaced an estimated 8,000 people from the local community.

'ADRA workers operating in war-torn regions are increasingly at risk of being in harm's way, but are dedicated to relieving the suffering of refugees and others affected by war,' said Charles Sandefur, ADRA International president.

'Emmanuel, Kaare and Musa were doing just that when they lost their lives, and we honour their commitment to demonstrating God's love in war-torn Liberia. At the same time, we recognise that each of them derived an invaluable source of strength and courage from their families, and we mourn with them at this time,' Sandefur added.

In a statement, ADRA commended both the United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for co-ordinating and carrying out the search for the agency's workers under extremely dangerous conditions.

'Their courageous efforts have provided ADRA and the families of those who lost their lives with the opportunity to grieve,' the statement said. 'In the wake of this terrible tragedy, ADRA's commitment to the people of Liberia is strong and unswerving.'

ADRA's statement quoted Kaare Lund, as recorded in his trip report upon his return from Liberia late last year: 'Technically, we ought to withdraw from all of Liberia, but they need help more than any of the others we are working with. If everyone pulls out, theirs is a destiny no one deserves! We should press on.'

Lund, who was 53, began his work with ADRA in 1989 as country director in Pakistan. His wife and three adult children survive him.

'Kaare Lund was fully dedicated to his duties, and his tragic and untimely death is a blow to the ADRA network as well as to the church,' said Harald Wollan, executive secretary of the Seventh-day Church in the Trans-European region.

'With his enthusiasm for relief work Kaare has been able to create a "contagious" attitude to ADRA work among a generation that grew up admiring him as "Mr Pathfinder leader". He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him,' Wollan added.

ANN

TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION is seeking an **office secretary** to the Director of Youth and Family Ministries at the international headquarters of the SDA Church covering Northern Europe, the Middle East part of Africa and Pakistan. This is a half-time position in an interesting and busy department. The successful applicant should have proven organisational skills, be able to work individually as well as part of a team and have a good working knowledge of Desktop Publishing and Microsoft Office skills. For an application form, please apply in writing with full CV to: Harald Wollan, Executive Secretary, Trans-European Division, 119 St Peter's Street, St Albans, AL1 3EY.
Closing Date: 21 April 2003

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Congratulations to Helen Winch, on obtaining her MSc in Applied Micro-Biology from the University of Wolverhampton. Helen is the youngest daughter of Denise and Eric Winch who recently moved from the Grantham area to Crieff, where Helen will be seeking employment.

Aberdaron Summer Camps

Special Needs	6-13 July
Family Camp	18-27 July
Earlteen Camp	27 July-3 August
Junior Camp	3-10 August
Senior Camp	10-17 August
Coventry Camp	20-24 August

The **Behavioural Sciences department at Newbold College** is seeking to create a register of Adventist Social Scientists for part-time lecturing as well as seminars and conferences. If you have a first degree or above in any social science subject please contact Val Bernard on 01344 407468.

ABC BOOK SALES 2003

April		
27	John Loughborough	10am-2pm
May		
11	West Midlands	10am-2pm
18	Newbold Graduation	10am onwards

Volume 108/8 – 11 April 2003

EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL

COPY FOR NO. 10 – 16 April

Copy should be sent to the Editor, MESSENGER, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700.

Fax No: (01476) 577144.
Email: Editor@adventist.org.uk

ABC Sales line: (01476) 539900
Mon-Thurs only, 7.30 – 6pm.

The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Printed by Wayzgoose, Sleaford.

Visit the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk
ISSN 0309-3654

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Apr 11	7.50	8.02	7.56	8.10	8.19
18	8.02	8.14	8.09	8.25	8.32
25	8.13	8.25	8.21	8.39	8.45
May 2	8.25	8.37	8.34	8.53	8.59

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UPCOMING EVENTS				
EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
Festival of Mission Praise Day of Fellowship	Sabbath 19 April at 10am. Doors open at 9.30am	Wolverhampton Civic Hall, North Street, Wolverhampton	Guest speaker: Dwight Nelson Other speakers: C. Perry, D. Elias, A. Hodges, M. Pujic	For more information contact NEC Offices, 0115 960 6312
North-West Youth Revival	23-25 April 7pm-8.30pm	Manchester Central Church/Whalley Range Methodist Church, Withington Road, Manchester.	Teens and youth Speaker: Pastor John M. Scott, Toronto	Contact: Tel 0161 2279179 or email: youthrevival@msn.com
North-West Youth Day of Fellowship	Sabbath 26 April 10am	Peel Hall, University of Salford, The Crescent, Salford, M4 5WT	Teens and youth Speaker: Pastor John M. Scott, Toronto	Contact: Tel 0161 2279179 or email: youthrevival@msn.com
'Children's Day' – Celebrating 20 years of Young Hope Choir	26 April 9am onwards	Camp Hill church Birmingham, W. Mids	NB: Children preaching	Sylvia Thompson 0774 864 2513, mzteesda@aol.com Buses: 2, 6, 12, 31, 41 from Birmingham city centre
'Prayer Warriors V' Empowered by the Spirit	Bank Holiday weekend 2-5 May	Alton Castle, Castle Hill, Alton, Staffordshire.	Calling all youth 15 yrs+ £50 per person.	Contact the NEC on 0115 960 6312 for application form
West Midlands Cultural Day of Fellowship	Sabbath 3 May	St John's Methodist Church, St Paul's Road, Smethwick, W. Midlands	Pastor E. Francis, NEC president	Phone Judith Asare on 0121 544 3990

Please submit advertisements in this format. Please make the church connection clear. For a complete list of upcoming events check out the database on the BUC website, www.adventist.org.uk.